

Currently Pending Claims

1. (currently amended) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having a first and a second printhead each with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

a frame; and

a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit only from said first printhead, and

a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit only from said second printhead.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A spittoon system according to claim 1, further comprising a drive motor coupled to rotate said rollers.

5. (currently amended) A spittoon system according to claim 4, further comprising a gear train which couples the motor to the rollers.

6. (currently amended) A spittoon system according to claim 1, wherein the frame defines a waste ink reservoir located to receive waste ink from said rollers.

7. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 6, further comprising a liner of an absorbent material located within said waste ink reservoir.

8. (currently amended) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having first, second, third and fourth printheads each with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

a frame;

a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said first printhead; [A spittoon system according to claim 1 for a printing mechanism having second, third, and forth printheads, further comprising:]

a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a second axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said second printhead;

a third roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a third axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said third printhead; and

a fourth roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a fourth axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said fourth printhead.

9. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a drive motor;

a gear train which couples the motor to said roller, said second roller, said third roller, and said fourth roller;

wherein the frame defines a waste ink reservoir located to receive waste ink from said roller, said second

roller, said third roller, and said fourth roller;  
plural scrapers mounted to said frame to engage said  
rollers and remove waste ink therefrom; and  
a liner of an absorbent material located within said  
waste ink reservoir.

10. (currently amended) A method of purging waste ink from a printhead of a printing mechanism having printheads for dispensing ink, comprising:

positioning at least some of said printheads over  
their own corresponding one of multiple rollers; and

purging waste ink from said at least some of said  
printheads onto ~~the~~ their own corresponding one of  
multiple rollers.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said printheads have nozzles which dispense said ink, and said positioning comprises positioning said rollers a substantially uniform distance from said nozzles.

12. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said printheads form a first contour and said positioning comprises positioning said rollers in a second contour similar to the first contour.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said first contour comprises an arcuate shape, and said second contour comprises an arcuate shape.

14. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said first contour comprises a semicircular shape, and said second contour comprises a semicircular shape.

15. (currently amended) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having a first and a second printhead each with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

first means for receiving ink spit only from said first printhead;

second means for receiving ink spit only from said second printhead; and

means for rotating each of said first and second means for receiving ink about an axis oriented in said first direction.

16. (canceled).

17. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising means for storing waste ink.

18. (currently amended) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising means for scraping waste ink from said first and second means for receiving ink.

19. (currently amended) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising:

means for scraping waste ink from said first and second means for receiving ink;

means for storing waste ink;

means for absorbing waste ink in said means for storing; and

wherein said means for rotating comprises a motor and means for transferring rotational motion from said motor to said first and second means for receiving ink.

20. (currently amended) A printing mechanism, comprising:

a chassis defining a printzone and a servicing zone;  
a first printhead having a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction;  
a second printhead having a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction;  
a carriage which moves the printhead through the printzone and the servicing zone;  
a frame located in the servicing zone; and  
a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction and located to receive ink spit only from said first printhead; and  
a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction and located to receive ink spit only from said second printhead.